WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus comprising:

visual line setting means for setting an
5   arbitrary visual direction for a 3D model;

attribution input means for entering attribution information so as to position said attribution information in said arbitrary visual direction set by said setting means; and

10   storage means for storing said arbitrary visual direction and said attribution information in correlation with each other.

2. An information processing apparatus according
15   to claim 1, further comprising:

instruction means for instructing said arbitrary visual direction that is set; and

display means for displaying said attribution information that is correlated with said visual
20   direction designated by said instruction means.

3. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

grouping means for grouping a plurality of
25   attribution information sets entered by said attribution input means; and

storage control means for storing said

attribution information groups in said storage means
with said visual direction set by said visual line
setting means.

5   4.   An information processing apparatus according
to claim 3, wherein said storage control means stores
said attribution information groups in correlation
with different attribution information in a plurality
of like visual lines.

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5.   An information processing apparatus according
to claim 3, wherein said visual line setting means
sets different positions in the same visual
direction; and wherein said storage control means
15 stores attribution information in correlation with
said different positions in the same visual direction.

6.   An information processing apparatus
comprising:
20   three-dimensional data generation means for
generating data for a three-dimensional object;
visual line setting means for setting a visual
direction for data generated by said three-
dimensional data generation means;
25   attribution setting means for setting
attribution information; and
control means for storing said visual direction

set by said visual line setting means in storage
means with said attribution information set by said
attribution setting means.

5   7. An information processing apparatus according
to claim 6, further comprising:

selection means for selecting a visual
direction; and

display control means for displaying said object
10   based on said visual direction selected by said
selection means and attribution information
correlated with said visual direction.

8. An information processing method comprising:
15   a visual line setting step of setting an
arbitrary visual direction for a 3D model;

an attribution input step of entering
attribution information so as to position said
attribution information in said arbitrary visual
20   direction set at said setting step; and

a storage step of storing said arbitrary visual
direction and said attribution information in
correlation with each other.

25   9. An information processing method according to
claim 8, further comprising:

an instruction step of instructing said

arbitrary visual direction that is set; and

a display step of displaying said attribution information that is correlated with said visual direction designated at said instruction step.

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10. An information processing method according to claim 8, further comprising:

a grouping step of grouping a plurality of attribution information sets entered at said

10 attribution input step; and

a storage control step of storing said attribution information groups at said storage step with said visual direction set at said visual line setting step.

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11. An information processing method according to claim 10, wherein, at said storage control step, said attribution information groups is stored in correlation with different attribution information in

20 a plurality of like visual lines.

12. An information processing method according to claim 10, wherein, at said visual line setting step, different positions are set in the same visual

25 direction; and wherein, at said storage control step, attribution information is stored in correlation with said different positions in the same visual direction.

13. A computer executable program product comprising:

code for setting an arbitrary visual direction for a 3D model;

5   code for entering attribution information so as to position said attribution information in said arbitrary visual direction that is set; and

code for storing said arbitrary visual direction and said attribution information in correlation with

10   each other.

14. An information processing apparatus comprising:

attribution input means for entering attribution

15   information for a 3D model;

attribution allocation plane setting means for setting a virtual plane with which said attribution information is correlated; and

storage means for storing said virtual plane and

20   said attribution information in correlation with each other.

15. An information processing apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising:

25   attribution information allocation means for allocating said attribution information on a virtual plane set by said attribution allocation plane

setting means.

16. An information processing apparatus
according to claim 15, wherein said attribution
5   information allocation means allocates said
attribution information in the normal direction of a
virtual plane set by said attribution allocation
plane setting means.

10   17. An information processing apparatus
according to claim 14, further comprising:
display method setting means for setting at
least one of a display information set, a display
magnification, a display center and a display
15   direction,
wherein said storage means stores, on said
virtual plane set by said attribution allocation
plane setting means, said display method information
set by said display method setting means.
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18. An information processing apparatus
according to claim 17, further comprising:
holding means for holding, together with said 3D
model, said virtual plane set by said attribution
25   allocation plane setting means and said display
method information set by said display method setting
means.

19. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

attribution information size setting means for, based on said display magnification for said display

5   method information set by said display method setting means, setting the size of said attribution information base.

20. An information processing apparatus

10   according to claim 17, further comprising:

display coordinate axis setting means for setting the horizontal or perpendicular direction on a display; and

display means for displaying said 3D model or

15   said attribution information based on information set by said display coordinate axis setting means.

21. An information processing method comprising:

an attribution input step of entering

20   attribution information for a 3D model;

an attribution allocation plane setting step of setting a virtual plane with which said attribution information is correlated; and

a storage step of storing said virtual plane and

25   said attribution information in correlation with each other.

22. An information processing method according to claim 21, further comprising:

an attribution information allocation step of allocating said attribution information on a virtual plane set at said attribution allocation plane setting step.

23. An information processing method according to claim 22, wherein, at said attribution information allocation step, said attribution information is allocated in the normal direction of a virtual plane set at said attribution allocation plane setting step.

24. An information processing method according to claim 22, further comprising:

a display method setting step of setting at least one of a display information set, a display magnification, a display center and a display direction,

wherein said display method information set at said display method setting step is correlated and stored on said virtual plane set at said attribution allocation plane setting step.

25. An information processing method according to claim 24, further comprising:

a holding step of holding, together with said 3D

model, said virtual plane set at said attribution
allocation plane setting step and said display method
information set at said display method setting step.

5   26. An information processing method according
to claim 24, further comprising:
        an attribution information size setting step of,
based on said display magnification for said display
method information set at said display method setting
10   step, setting the size of said attribution
information base.

        27. An information processing method according
to claim 24, further comprising:
15   a display coordinate axis setting step of
setting the horizontal or perpendicular direction on
a display; and
        a display step of displaying said 3D model or
said attribution information based on information set
20   at said display coordinate axis setting step.

        28. A computer executable program product
comprising:
        code for entering attribution information for a
25   3D model;
        code for setting a virtual plane with which said
attribution information is correlated; and

code for storing said virtual plane and said
attribution information in correlation with each
other.

5   29.   An information processing apparatus
comprising:

attribution input means for entering attribution
information for a 3D model;

attribution allocation plane setting means for

10   setting virtual planes with which said attribution
information is correlated; and

storage means for storing said attribution
information in correlation with at least one of said
virtual planes.

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30.   An information processing apparatus
according to claim 29, wherein said attribution
information is stored in said storage means in
correlation with one of said virtual planes.

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31.   An information processing method comprising:
an attribution input step of entering
attribution information for a 3D model;
an attribution allocation plane setting step of

25   setting virtual planes with which said attribution
information is correlated; and

a storage step of storing said attribution

information in correlation with at least one of said
virtual planes.

32.   An information processing method according
to claim 31, wherein, at said storage step, said
attribution information is stored in correlation with
one of said virtual planes.

33.   An information processing apparatus
comprising:
        attribution input means for entering attribution
information for a 3D model;
        visual direction setting means for setting
arbitrary visual directions with which said
attribution information is correlated; and
        storage means for storing said attribution
information in correlation with at least one of said
visual directions.

34.   An information processing apparatus
according to claim 33, wherein said attribution
information is stored in said storage means in
correlation with one of said visual directions.

35.   An information processing method comprising:
        an attribution input step of entering
attribution information for a 3D model;

a visual direction setting step of setting
arbitrary visual directions with which said
attribution information is correlated; and

a storage step of storing said attribution

5   information in correlation with at least one of said
visual directions.

36.   An information processing method according
to claim 35, wherein, at said storage step, said

10   attribution information is stored in correlation with
one of said visual directions.